

Application No.: 09/588,350

Docket No.: 20162-00557-US

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-27. (Canceled)

27. (Currently amended) A method for issuing of an electronic ticket in which user terminal units, issuer units, and account units, each having an account address assigned to a user are and interconnected through a communication network, comprising the steps of:

(a) causing a user terminal unit to transmitting a user account storage-address assigned to the user, and a demand for ticket issuance from a user terminal unit to an electronic ticket issuer unit, the demand including a user identifier ;

(b) causing the issuer unit to transmit the demand for issuance to an account unit corresponding to which controls the account storage-address of said a respective user;

(c) causing the issuer unit to access the account storage-address of the user;

(d) causing the accessed account unit to transmit to the issuer unit a certificate of account storage-address which guarantees a correspondence relationship between the account storage address assigned to the user and an identifier of the user of the account unit; and

(e) causing the issuer unit to verify the certificate of account storage-address and allowing said issuer unit to use the identifier of the user contained in the certificate of account storage address upon successful verification;

(f) causing the issuer unit to prepare an electronic ticket inclusive of the user identifier;

(g) transmitting the electronic ticket to the account unit through the communication network; and

(h) causing the account unit corresponding to the user's account storage-address to store the electronic ticket in said account unit for subsequent retrieval;

28. (Currently amended) A method of processing consumption of an electronic ticket in an information processing system in which user terminal units, account units each having an account address assigned to a user, and ticket examiner units are interconnected by a communication network through which electronic tickets can be circulated, comprising the steps of:

Application No.: 09/588,350

Docket No.: 20162-00557-US

(a) ~~causing a user portable processor to transmitting an user-account storage address~~ which is derived from a user portable processor to a ticket examiner unit;

(b) ~~causing connecting the ticket examiner unit to access an account unit corresponding to the of a respective account storage address~~ to demand an electronic ticket;

(c) causing the account unit to derive the demanded electronic ticket and to transmit it to the ticket examiner unit;

(d) causing the ticket examiner to request the portable processor to generate an electronic signature to a certificate of consumption;

(e) causing the portable processor to generate the signature to the certificate of consumption and to transmit it to the ticket examiner unit for verification prior to completion of ticket examination.

29. (Currently amended) A method according to Claim 28, in which the step (c) further comprises the steps of: verifying the a-circulation condition required on a ticket examining side for the derived electronic ticket; and transmitting it to the ticket examiner unit upon successful verification.

30. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 28, in which step (e) further comprises the steps of: verifying the a-circulation condition required on a user side for the received electronic ticket, and using a result of such verification as a condition for deciding whether the electronic ticket should pass ticket examination or not.

31. (Currently amended) A method of processing electronic ticket transfer in an information processing system wherein ~~a-user terminal units and an-account units~~ each having an account address assigned to a user are interconnected through together on a communication network through which electronic tickets can be circulated, comprising the steps of:

(a) causing a user terminal unit to transmit a demand for electronic ticket transfer inclusive of an identifier of an electronic ticket and ~~an transferee storage account address of a transferee~~ to an account unit of a transferer;

Application No.: 09/588,350

Docket No.: 20162-00557-US

(b) when the account unit of the transferer accesses the account unit of the transferee, causing the account unit of the transferee to transmit a certificate of account storage-address which guarantees a correspondence relationship between the account storage-address and an identifier of a user of the account unit to the user terminal unit through the account unit of the transferer;

(c) causing the user terminal unit to verify the certificate of account storage-address and to transmit a result of the such-verification to the account unit of the transferer; and

(d) causing the account unit of the transferer to transmit the electronic ticket to an account unit of at the transferee address; upon finding that the received result of verification is acceptable; and

(e) causing the account unit of the transferee to store the electronic ticket in the account unit of the transferee for subsequent withdrawal.

32. (Currently amended) A method according to Claim 31, in which the step (a) comprises the steps of-

(a-1) when a portable processor is loaded into the user terminal unit, causing the portable processor to using-use an account storage-address of the transferer which is internally contained in the portable processor, to achieve a connection with the account unit of the transferer and to present a demand for a list of electronic tickets;

(a-2) causing the account unit of the transferer to prepare a list of electronic tickets which is demanded and to transmit it to the user terminal unit; and

(a-3) causing the user terminal unit to transmit to the account unit of the transferer an account transferee-address of the transferee and the demand for transfer together with an identifier of an electronic ticket which is selected by the transferer from the list of electronic tickets.

33. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 31, further comprising the steps of:

(f) causing the account unit of the transferer to demand a certificate of transfer;

(g) causing the user terminal unit to demand a signature to the certificate of transfer from the portable processor;

(h) causing the portable processor to generate the signature to the certificate of transfer to prepare the certificate of transfer with signature and to transmit it to the user terminal unit;

Application No.: 09/588,350

Docket No.: 20162-00557-US

(i) causing the user terminal unit to transmit the certificate of transfer with signature to the account unit of the transferee through the account unit of the transferer; and

(j) causing the account unit of the transferee to store the received certificate of transfer with signature.